

c barry  
1619 34th ave  
san francisco CA 94122

Sep 4th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Im writing to register my opposition toward the recent USTelecom petition to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Within their petition, they specifically claim that residential consumers like me will not be affected, since there are no carriers like mine (Sonic.net) who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace. This, according to my provider, is untrue. Additionally, Sonic and other local carriers throughout the area (in backing a full economic study) all strongly disagree with USTelecom on this key point.

The incumbent trade association seems engaged in an attempt to weaken their local competitors via the FCC, and should be evaluated as such.

In response, local broadband providers like Sonic and consumers like me are requesting the Bridge 2 Broadband in an attempt to preserve strong competition with local providers and dissuade association members from arbitrarily raising prices and/or limiting their services.

Existing residential subscribers need to be heard as many of us would be "materially affected" without access to UNE services. For without the use of UNEs as key backhauled for their fiber networks, competitive local providers would not be able to connect to consumers, let alone provide service to them.

As a small business owner and residential fiber consumer (previously connected via competitive DSL), Ive always enjoyed competitive broadband and telephone service at a favorable rate. Fortunate to live in an area where strong competition exists, Ive always been able to acquire the best local provider for my needs. I believe most consumers would like the same options preserved for them, particularly in rural areas where fewer providers may naturally tend toward weaker competition.

Strong competition for residential broadband (and telephone) service should be encouraged through as much of a level playing field as the underlying technology allows.

Thanks for your consideration.

c barry